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REMARKS

The present application now contains claims 1-15 and 29, 30, and 32-34. Claims 17-28 have been cancelled, subject to their being the subject of a divisional application(s). Claims 16 and 31 have been currently cancelled, for the reasons given below. Claims 1 and 29 have been currently amended.

Claim 1 has been amended by adding the limitation of claim 16 to it. Claim 29 has been amended by adding the limitation of claim 32 to it.

Claims 1 (as amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 16) and 29 (as amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 31) stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Helmstädter in view of Ruetschle. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and submit that the combination of references do not form a *prima facie* basis for anticipation of the claims so rejected.

Applicants submit that the Examiner has incorrectly interpreted Ruetschle as teaching that the perfecter rotates in a first direction when removing the sheet from the preceding roller and rotates in an opposite direction when it passes off the sheet to a following roller. The portion of Ruetschle that the Examiner referred to discusses the motion of the grippers and not the motion of the rollers.

Fig. 1 of Ruetschle, which is referred to in the section immediately prior to the cited portion discusses the passing off of the sheet from gripper 32, which captures the sheet, to gripper 33. Without reversing the rotation of the roller 29 (or any of the other rollers) this reverses the lie of the paper on the roller, so that it is fed trailing edge first to the next roller 16. This is more fully described with respect to Figs. 7 - 9 at col. 11, line 47 to col. 14, line 18.

The portion referred to by the Examiner merely says that instead of having a pair of grippers in which the trailing edge is handed off from one to the other to reverse the sheet, a single gripper "tumbles" through 180° so that its starting position is the same as gripper 32 when it receives the sheet and its final position is the same as that of gripper 33 when it has finished turning the sheet.

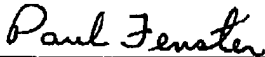
What is clearly missing from Ruetschle is a change in rotation of any of the rollers as claimed in claims 1 and 32.

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Applicants submit that all of the claims are patentable and that the application is ready for allowance. Notice to this effect is respectfully awaited.

In any event, since this amendment does no more than to place previously dependent claims into independent form, it reduces the issues on appeal. Furthermore, and for the same reason, the amendment does not raise any new issues.

Respectfully submitted,
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